



STRENGTHENING SOCIAL SECURITY: WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

President Bush – Workers Paying Into Unsustainable System: “I also will continue to work on Social Security. I just want to make sure the seniors here understand one thing: Nothing is going to change for you. I hope you don't listen to all the politics coming out of Washington, D.C., but you will get your check. You need to worry about whether or not your grandchildren will get their checks. This system cannot sustain itself the way it is now set up. We got young kids working to pay payroll taxes into the system that's going to be broke in 2040. And that's not fair, and it's not right. My job is to confront problems, not pass them on to future Presidents. And I'm going to continue to confront that Social Security problem.” (President Bush, “President Participates In A Conversation On Medicare,” El Mirage, AZ, 8/29/05) [Read The Transcript.](#)

Dallas Morning News – Lauds President's Leadership, Supports Personal Accounts: “[L]et us laud Mr. Bush. He's stepped up to the largest entitlement program, and the constituencies that depend upon it, and said that Congress must change this program so it doesn't collapse under its struggling finances. That took leadership. We also support his idea to let workers establish personal investment accounts with Social Security contributions.” (Editorial, “Saving Social Security: Here's A Compromise For Bush And Democrats,” *Dallas Morning News*, 8/28/05) [Read The Editorial.](#) (Subscription Required)

U.S. Treasurer Anna Cabral – Personal Accounts Increase Latino Ownership: “Personal accounts are part of the President's dedication to decreasing poverty in the Latino community. He wants workers to be able to grow a nest-egg which could be passed on to loved ones. He wants us to keep control of our own money, knowing that we will do what's best with it. You've probably heard him call it the “ownership society” and I believe this goal is wonderful for our community... Right now, we have a historic opportunity and obligation to save and strengthen the nation's retirement security system. The President's leadership, combined with our economic health, gives us this opportunity. The expense of waiting to act reminds us why this opportunity must be seized, and why we are obligated to do so. Waiting to fix the problem is terribly expensive, and irresponsible, considering younger generations will be left paying the bill.” (Treasurer Anna Cabral, Remarks To The California Hispanic Chambers Of Commerce, Oakland, CA, 8/26/05) [Read The Remarks.](#)

Personal Accounts Allow Younger Workers To Own Part Of Their Retirement: “Personal Retirement Accounts are the logical solution. PRAs allow increasingly financially-savvy Americans to invest – that is, to own – a part of their retirement. PRAs would improve the Social Security program, eliminating the demographic problem associated with a pay-as-you-go system. Financing the system in the present rather than staving off payments until the future is simply sound economic planning.” (Erin Robert, “A Dose Of Realism Is Needed,” *www.townhall.com*, 8/31/05) [Read The Op-Ed.](#)

Social Security Commissioner Jo Anne Barnhart – Congress Must Work Quickly To Secure Social Security : “President Bush and members of Congress should work quickly to reach agreement on a plan to secure the Social Security system's future, Social Security Commissioner Jo Anne Barnhart told members of the Georgetown Rotary Club on Tuesday. ‘We have to act now before people nearing retirement have to make significant adjustments with much warning,’ said the Delaware native and former staffer for the late Sen. William W. Roth, R-Del. ‘The earlier you act, the less drastic the action has to be.’” (Joe Rogalsky, “Social Security Fix Urged,” *Delaware State News*, 8/31/05)

Chicago Defender Columnist – Personal Accounts Help African Americans Build Nest Eggs: “This seemingly knee-jerk opposition hurts the communities our Black leaders are charged with serving. For example, opposition to President George Bush's Social Security reform proposal is not unexpected, but it is misguided. On average, Blacks have lower life expectancies than whites, which means we pay more into the system than we will ever get out of it. Personal accounts would allow us to build wealth and give it to families should we die an untimely death. This does not happen under the current system. The money now simply goes back to the government.” (Don Scoggins, “Changing Our Destiny,” *The Chicago Defender*, 8/31/05) [Read the Op-Ed.](#)